

# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



**ISMAEL AHMED, DIRECTOR**

Grand Tower Building  
235 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48913  
[www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)

The **Department of Human Services (DHS)** directs the operations of public assistance and service programs through county offices in every county in Michigan. It administers the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant and the federal Food Stamp Program, which in Michigan is called the Food Assistance Program. The department administers other state and federally funded assistance programs, including the Family Independence Program, Child Development and Care (child day care services), State Disability Assistance, and State Emergency Relief. Department staff members also determine eligibility for Medicaid and other medical assistance programs jointly funded by the federal government and the state and administered by the Department of Community Health.

The department also administers the federal IV-D Child Support Program in Michigan and the client welfare fraud investigation programs. In addition, the department provides other services to children, adults, and families in the state, including those related to children's protective services, adoption, and foster care. Services to adults include protective services, adult community placement, home help services, and assistance with health, housing, transportation, and educational needs.

Family services include referral for employment and training, independent living services providing housing assistance, family planning, counseling, health-related services, volunteer services, refugee assistance, transitional services to youths exiting foster care and out-of-home placement, migrant services, refugee services, Native American services, and domestic violence prevention and treatment programs. These services are designed to help strengthen family life and to help families become self-sufficient.

Department staff and contractors deliver a wide range of service programs for families and children of Michigan. They include protective and preventive services for children who are neglected, abused, or exploited, including foster care placement. The agency also provides a range of institutional and non-institutional social services for the care, training, and treatment of neglected and delinquent children committed to the department as state wards and temporary court wards. Such services include casework and counseling, adoption, foster care, and the operation of centers for institutional residential care and group homes. In addition, DHS offers consultation on general child welfare problems to private and public agencies throughout the state and offers services through the Interstate Compact.

The department also administers the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, Children's Trust Fund, Bureau of Child and Adult Licensing, Michigan Community Service Commission, Disability Determination Service, and Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

The department director is its chief executive officer and is appointed by the governor. The administrative divisions of the DHS include the Director's Office, Chief Deputy Director, and deputy directors for Field Operations and Cash Assistance, Financial and Quality Services, Regulatory and Organizational Support, and Children's Services.

The DHS director has a number of offices that report directly to the director, including the offices of Communications, Legislative and Liaison Services, Office of Early Education and Care/Federal

Liaison, Interagency and Community Services (which includes Migrant Affairs, Native American Affairs and Refugee Services), Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, and the deputy director for Children's Services. The director is also the department administrator for the semi-independent Early Childhood Investment Corporation and Michigan Community Service Commission.

The Chief Deputy Director has the administrative responsibility for deputy directors responsible for Field Operations and Cash Assistance, Financial and Quality Services, and Regulatory and Organizational Support, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer for Financial and Administrative Services. Service delivery through the department's network of field offices is administered through the deputy directors for Field Operations and Cash Assistance, Financial and Quality Services (which includes the Division of Adult and Family Services), and the deputy director for Children's Services. The Chief Administrative Officer and deputy director for Regulatory and Organizational Support administers entities dealing with matters such as personnel, contracts, and child support.

The deputy directors for Field Operations and Cash Assistance has administrative responsibility for overseeing the operation of cash assistance programs through local offices in each of the 83 counties in the state and providing all services and assistance payment programs to eligible clients. This component of the department is also administratively responsible for the Child Welfare Training Institute and certain technology programs. The deputy director for Children's Services is responsible for administering child welfare programs in 6 large counties, as well as administering the program centrally.

The department administers services through a network of county and district offices, staff stationed in hospitals and related facilities, and 49 one-stop, school-based Family Resource Centers that promote greater parental involvement in children's education and enhance self-sufficiency by establishing human service delivery within the context of a school building.

The department also includes the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, Children's Trust Fund, Committee on Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant ad hoc committee, and the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

